

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (281) 970-4545.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A closing device adaptable to a glass or thermoplastic container comprising a neck closable by a stopper forced into the neck or screwed or clipped or crimped to the side wall of the neck while compressing a seal onto the upper end of the neck, the device consisting of a sleeve (20) comprising an internal channel (33) having an axis of symmetry (18) that opens at one end on a leaktight connection of the closing device to the neck (4) of a container and at the other end in a sliding-contact surface (19) which is a sector of a cylinder or a portion of a sphere, having an axis of symmetry of revolution (17) that intersects the axis of symmetry (18) of the internal channel of the sleeve (20) at right angles, providing the bottle with a new orifice (26) that can be closed by a shut-off plate (21) connected to a caliper (22) which pivots, via the ends of its two parallel arms (23), about two journals (24) integral with the sleeve (20), on which the arms pivot by means of a bore (25), the device being characterized in that the journals (24) and the bores (25) form cams that enable the pressure of the shut-off plate (21) on the sliding-contact surface (19) to be varied and in particular the pressure of the sealing means (27) to be varied when the new orifice (26) is closed using control means (31).

2. (Amended) The closing device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a sealing means consists of a seal (27) with a flexible lip integral with the new orifice (26), shaped essentially as a frustum of a cone of revolution, while the shut-off plate (21) comprises, in the area that covers the new orifice (26), a small spherical cap with a diameter (28) roughly the same as that of said orifice (26) and with a radius of curvature of the spherical cap that is much greater.

3. (Amended) The closing device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a control means is a lever (31) integral with the parallel arms (23) of the caliper (22).

IN THE ABSTRACT

The closing device (1) consisting of a sleeve (2) that seals onto the neck (4) of a bottle and that comprises an internal channel (3) which opens, via a new orifice (5) in a sliding-contact surface (7) with associated slopes (10) and slideways (14) acting as guide means to a shut-off plate (9) for closing the new orifice (5) which is moved translationally by a knob (12), which sliding-contact surface (7) may be planar or in the form of a sector of a cylinder of revolution or in the form of a portion of a sphere.